

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 RANGOO 03245 01 OF 02 121143Z

17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-10 SAM-01 SAJ-01 EB-07 AID-05

COME-00 TRSE-00 ACDA-05 SCCT-01 DHA-02 ORM-02 CIEP-01

OES-03 INT-05 FEA-01 SNM-02 DEAE-00 /123 W

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R 120925Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 575

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK BY POUCH

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY DACCA BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU BY POUCH

AMCONSUL MANDALAY BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI BY POUCH

USLO PEKING BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY PARIS BY POUCH

AMCONSUL UDORN BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 RANGOON 3245

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, BM

SUBJECT: JOINT WEEKA #43

1. NE WIN OFF TO PRC (LOU)

PRESIDENT NE WIN ACCOMPANIED BY FOREIGN MINISTER HLA PHONE,
DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER BRIGADIER KYAW HTIN, COUNCIL OF STATE
MEMBERS DR. MAUNG MAUNG AND TUN LIN AND OTHER GUB AND PARTY
OFFICIALS DEPARTED ON UBA'S 727 FOR PEKING NOVEMBER 11, HIS
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PAGE 02 RANGOO 03245 01 OF 02 121143Z

FIRST VISIT TO CHINA SINCE 1971. IT IS WIDELY RUMORED THAT BUR-

MESE WILL DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AS WELL AS QUESTION OF PRC SUPPORT FOR BCP INSURGENCY. ACCORDING TO FBIS, CHINESE PRESS EDITORIAL WELCOMED VISIT, REITERATED USUAL PLEDGES OF FRIENDSHIP AND PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE WITH BURMA, BUT LAID HEAVY STRESS ON THE THREAT OF "HEGEMONISM" IN THE REGION.

2. BURMESE REACTION TO UNREST IN BANGLADESH (LOU)

GUB THUS FAR SEEMS AS CONFUSED AS MOST OUTSIDERS ABOUT EVENTS IN BANGLADESH IN THE LAST TEN DAYS AND MFA OFFICIALS CLAIM THAT THEY ARE WAITING FOR DUST TO SETTLE BEFORE OFFERING ANY VIEWS ON THE NEW REGIME. TRADITIONALLY, GUB'S MAIN CONCERN CENTERS ON INTERNAL DISORDERS IN BANGLADESH THAT MIGHT PROMPT SHARP INCREASE IN UNCONTROLLED FLOW OF BANGLADESH POPULACE, ALREADY SUBSTANTIAL, INTO BURMA.

3. FRENCH ECONOMIC MISSION (LOU)

FRENCH ECONOMIC MISSION (WEEKA 42, ITEM 2) IS CONCLUDING ITS RATHER LENGTHY 12 DAY STAY IN BURMA AFTER MEETING WITH MANY TOP-LEVEL GUB OFFICIALS INCLUDING PRESIDENT NE WIN (ALTHOUGH LATTER WAS ACCOMPLISHED ONLY AFTER MUCH PUSHING BY FINANCE AND FOREIGN MINISTRIES). FRENCH EMBASSY SOURCES MAINTAIN THAT THE GROSI IS MERELY DOING ROUTINE ECONOMIC SURVEY OF ALL SOUTHEAST ASIA; BURMESE SOURCES DESCRIBE IT AS FACT FINDING MISSION IN CONNECTION WITH PROPOSED DONOR CONSORTIUM; THE LEADER OF THE IBRD MISSION PRESENTLY IN BURMA, A FRENCH NATIONAL, SAID THE GROUP IS LOOKING AT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN THE COUNTRY WITH A VIEW TOWARD FORMULATING FRENCH POSITION ON CONSORTIUM. HOWEVER, LENGTH OF STAY, TOP-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS AND AMOUNT OF TIME AND EFFORT GUB BUREAUCRACY DEVOTING TO MISSION LEAD US TO BELIEVE THERE MAY BE MORE IMMEDIATE AND TANGIBLE PURPOSE BEHIND VISIT SUCH AS BILATERAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT OR LOANS TO GUB FOR SPECIFIC PROJECTS OR COMMODITIES.

4. DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE TO WASHINGTON (LOU)

DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTS, DR. BO LAY, AND TWO MINISTRY OFFICIALS LEFT RANGOON NOVEMBER 7 FOR WASHINGTON. THE DELEGATION WILL HAVE "FINAL" DISCUSSIONS THERE WITH IBRD REGARD-
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PAGE 03 RANGOO 03245 01 OF 02 121143Z

ING DEVELOPMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY. COMMENT: GUB REPORTEDLY INTERESTED IN IMPORTING BREEDING STOCK IN ORDER TO UPGRADE LOCAL CATTLE STRAINS.

5. DISCIPLINE CAMPAIGN EASING? (LOU)

WHILE THE LAW AND ORDER CAMPAIGN IS STILL CONTINUING, THERE ARE SOME SIGNS THAT IT IS EASING. THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE PUBLICITY IN

THE PRESS IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS OF ARRESTS AND HEAVY SENTENCES FOR BLACKMARKETEERS AND OTHER UNDESIRABLES, ALTHOUGH OFFICIAL PRESSURE ON THEM CONTINUES. THE RANGOON CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN STILL GETS OCCASIONAL PUBLICITY IN THE PRESS, BUT LESS THAN BEFORE. SIDEWALK VENDORS, WHO WERE FORCED OFF THE STREET AS PART OF THE CAMPAIGN, ARE CAUTIOUSLY RETURNING IN SMALL NUMBERS. SOME PRICE CONTROLLED COMMODITIES ARE BEING BLACKMARKETED OPENLY RATHER THAN COVERTLY AS IN THE PAST. ON THE OTHER HAND, OFFICIAL PRESSURE ON COOKING OIL DISTRIBUTORS CONTINUES; COOKING OIL CURRENTLY SELLS ON BLACKMARKET FOR 44 KYATS A VISS COMPARED TO THE CONTROL PRICE OF 23 KYATS.

6. PPP BROADCAST JUSTIFIES BOMBING TACTICS (LOU)

A CLANDESTINE BROADCAST NOVEMBER 10 OF THE PRO-U NU PPP EXPATRIATE GROUP SOMEWHAT DEFENSIVELY JUSTIFIED ITS TACTIC OF SENDING TERRORISTS INTO RANGOON AND OTHER BURMESE CITIES ON INDISCRIMINATE GRENADE THROWING MISSIONS. BROADCAST MOTED THAT "BATTLES FOUGHT IN REMOTE JUNGLES, FAR AWAY FROM THE CAPITAL, DO NOT WORRY THE MILITARY DICTATORS", AND GOES ON TO ARGUE THAT ONLY BOMBING ATTACKS IN MAJOR CITIES CAN REALLY REACH THEM. THEREFORE, ALTHOUGH "INNOCENT PEOPLE ARE HURT", USE OF TACTIC WILL CONTINUE AND "PEOPLE ARE ASKED TO UNDERSTAND." COMMENT: BROADCAST APPEARS TO ADMIT, ON ONE HAND, THAT PPP MILITARY EFFORTS MAKING LITTLE PROGRESS WHILE, ON THE OTHER HAND, IMPLICITLY RECOGNIZING POLITICAL DAMAGE IT SUFFERS WHEN THE INNOCENT POPULACE IS THE VICTIM.

7. LETPANDO PIPELINE (CONF)

MYANMA OIL CORPORATION (MOC) HAS REPORTEDLY COMPLETED WORK ON 25 MILES OF 70 MILE PIPELINE FROM LETPANDO OIL FIELD TO LANYWA, NEAR CHAUK REFINERY. MOC HAS ALSO RECENTLY PUT OUT TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT FOR 50 MILES OF TEN INCH PIPE WHICH WOULD BE IN ADDITION TO THE PIPE REQUIRED FOR THE LETPANDO PIPELINE. REPORTS ON HOW THIS ADDITIONAL PIPE WILL BE USED CONFLICT, ALTHOUGH IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT IT WILL BE USED TO LESSEN THE MOC'S RELIANCE ON SCARCE RIVER BARGES TO TRANSPORT OIL SOUTHWARD.

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PAGE 04 RANGOO 03245 01 OF 02 121143Z

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PAGE 01 RANGOO 03245 02 OF 02 121241Z

43

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OES-03 INT-05 FEA-01 SNM-02 DEAE-00 /123 W

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R 120925Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 576

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK BY POUCH

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI BY POUCH

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 RANGOON 3245

8. CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS NEAR PYINMANA COMPLETED (UNCLAS)

YEZIN DAM NEAR PYINMANA FINALLY COMPLETED AFTER 10 YEARS OF CONSTRUCTION WORK (THREE YEARS LONGER THAN ORIGINALLY PLANNED). THE 110 FOOT HIGH, 8,100 FOOT LONG DAM HAS A WATER SURFACE AREA OF 6,000 ACRES AND CAN IRRIGATE 16,000 ACRES OF LAND, BUT HAS NO HYDROELECTRIC FACILITIES. MAIN PURPOSE OF PROJECT IS TO PROVIDE IRRIGATION FOR EXPERIMENTAL FARMS AND LAND SURROUNDING NEW AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE AT YEZIN. IT WILL ALSO ENABLE FARMERS IN AREA TO TAKE UP DOUBLE OR MULTIPLE CROP-
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PAGE 02 RANGOO 03245 02 OF 02 121241Z

PING. ANOTHER PROJECT NEAR PYINMANA, THE TIMBER CORPORATION'S BASE WORKSHOP AND FOUNDRY, WHICH HAS BEEN UNDER CONSTRUCTION SINCE 1970 HAS ALSO BEEN RECENTLY COMPLETED. WORKERS NOW INSTALLING HEAVY EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY PROVIDED BY PRC AND CANADA. THE WORKSHOP WHICH WILL EMPLOY 600 WORKERS WILL ALLOW THE TIMBER

CORPORATION TO REPAIR HEAVY MACHINERY USED IN TIMBER EXTRACTION OPERATIONS.

9. NARCOTICS: ARRESTS (UNCLAS)

RECENT PUBLICATION OF THE COUNCIL OF PEOPLE'S JUSTICES' REPORT TO THE PYITHU HLUTTAW NOTED THAT THROUGHOUT BURMA 983 CASES FOR OFFENSES UNDER THE NARCOTICS LAW WERE BROUGHT TO HEARING DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1975. NARCOTICS RELATED CASES WERE THE LARGEST OF THE NINE CATEGORIES UNDER THE GENERAL HEADING OF SOCIAL CRIMES.

10. CULTURAL: THINK SOCIALISM (UNCLAS)

OF 33 LITERARY PRIZES OFFERED, ONLY EIGHT WERE AWARDED THIS YEAR FOR MANUSCRIPTS SUBMITTED IN THE ANNUAL SARPAY BEIKAN LITERARY COMPETITION. SEVERAL EDITORIALS COMMENTED ON THE POOR SHOWING NOTING THERE WERE ONLY 183 MANUSCRIPTS SUBMITTED COMPARED TO 268 LAST YEAR. WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY AND GUARDINA CRITICIZED AUTHORS FOR WRITING COMMERCIALIZED BOOKS FOR POPULAR CONSUMPTION RATHER THAN PRODUCING WORKS WHICH "ENHANCE KNOWLEDGE" AND "BUILD SOCIALISM". WPD ADDS "THE POOR PERFORMANCE IS A SYMPTOM OF LITERARY BANKRUPTCY IN WHICH FALSE VALUES OF SENSATIONALISM AND ARTIFICIALITY HAVE BECOME COUNTERFEIT FOR TRUE LITERARY MERIT AND REALISTIC CREATIVITY." COMMENT: IN ADDITION TO VARIOUS EDITORIALS CRITICAL OF THE PAUCITY OF LITERARY WORKS (THE CURRENT CLIMATE IN BURMA HARDLY STIMULATES INTELLECTUAL CREATIVITY), THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL EDITORIALS ON THE RECENT SUCCESSES OF THE BURMESE DANCE TROUPES AND THE NEED FOR CULTURAL GROUPS TO BE GUIDED BY "PRINCIPLES UNDERLYING THE CONCEPT AND ESTABLISHMENT OF SOCIALISM IN CONSONANCE WITH GUIDELINES LAID DOWN BY THE LANZIN PARTY." PERHAPS THE U LWIN "NEW BROOM" IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION IS CAUSING EDITORS AND WRITERS TO PAY MORE HEED TO SOCIALIST PRINCIPLES.

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